

## Absentee Voting Good Ideas and Lessons learned Election Cycle 2006

**LaPaz, Bolivia** - Our consular agents contacted each warden organization and went individually to their locations to facilitate voter registration by visiting and communicating with schools, churches, and businesses. In the capital, consular officers did the same. For the wardens who are able to reach larger numbers of American citizens, we sent them hard copies of the VAG, plus FWABs and FPCAs, to create "do it yourself" registration packets.

The monthly American Citizens Services (ACS) newsletter includes voting information so that American citizens who are not within reach of the Embassy still have easy access to the information they need.

At our quarterly warden meetings in La Paz, Santa Cruz and Cochabamba prior to the elections, we highlighted the "register now, vote now" message and made sure we had the voting materials at the actual meetings for any and all takers.

**Frankfurt, Germany** - We arranged (with Regional Security Officer assistance) for our greeters to take completed FVAP forms at the front gate so American citizens did not have to come all the way into the section in order to drop them off for mailing. We have a voter registration table at all of our American Citizen Information Nights (three in the past year). We staffed a non-partisan voter registration table at a debate co-sponsored by the Democrats and Republicans Abroad.

**Paris, France** - Post Paris maintained a highly effective communication system with the Chief Voting Action Officer in Washington in order to ensure that the general public throughout France received the most up-to-date information on voting practices in a timely manner. The Paris website, brochures, warden messages and handouts reflected this information. Post was also in contact with American Citizen Organizations throughout France in order to answer their needs on voting.

**Stockholm, Sweden** - We place an article each year in the Stockholm American Women's Club monthly newsletter regarding voter registration, state vs. federal requirements, and other voting issues.

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates** - At our local American Business Group's annual gala event, our consular chief dressed up as a very convincing Uncle Sam, drawing a curious and amused audience of American residents to a voting information booth.

Since the consular section has restricted access that makes it difficult for other embassy employees to stop by, the Voting Assistance Officer set up a table in the embassy's Community Liaison Office for two hours one afternoon. Embassy employees stopped by to get help filling out the absentee ballot requests and to ask questions that were not clear in the VAG. She was not dressed up as Uncle Sam, however!

**Auckland, New Zealand** - Every passport that leaves our office has a note encouraging the American citizen to register to vote online or to call us to obtain an FPCA card if they do not have access to the Internet.

**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia** - We are very small post, so we do not receive many requests for assistance with voting. We timed the date of our bi-annual Town Hall meeting so that voters would still have time to register and request a ballot to maximize voter participation and made sure we had the appropriate voting materials on hand.

**Taipei, Taiwan** - We created a self-service "Voter's Corner" in the ACS waiting room, including a large instructional sign in Chinese and English explaining exactly how to complete the FVAP, step-by-step with graphics, and a locked mailbox to deposit the completed form. We also had a large inspirational "Vote" poster printed with text in Chinese and English, which delivers the message and adds color to our waiting room.

Adding the information in Chinese (especially the instructions) reduced the number of people asking our staff for assistance and also encouraged people to register to vote while waiting for other services. Because we have a very large dual-national American citizen population, providing information in Chinese really made a difference.

**Jeddah, Saudi Arabia** - We arranged a meeting with the Marine Guard Security Detachment at post. Instead of us just telling them what to do, we had them tell us what they knew about the whole process. After that we corrected any mistakes or misunderstandings they had about voting. This way they participated more, rather than just listening to us tell them what to do. The outcome was great and they commended us for the way we informed them.

**Monrovia, Liberia** - Voting issues were especially appropriate and resonant in Liberia last year. The country's free and transparent elections resulted in the election of the first woman president in Africa, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The entire Embassy supported efforts in election monitoring. Many of us at Post found it very moving to see the commitment and dedication of the Liberians to voting including walking for hours to reach polling places, waiting in line in sun and rain, and counting votes by candlelight.

For our American voters, we reminded them of the example set by our host country and encouraged all Americans to exercise their own voting rights!! Here are our primary activities: we put a display on voting in the ACS waiting room; we arranged for direct hand carried mailing of registration forms for several American citizens who came to the Embassy late and wanted to vote; we sent voting updates/information to Embassy/USAID staff; we helped Embassy staff determine their registration information state-by-state; we worked directly with Marine Security Guard Detachment Staff Sergeant to coordinate voting guidance for the Marines.

**Islamabad, Pakistan** – We held a voter registration drive at our club’s happy hour.

**Panama City, Panama** - In Panama, we publish the information on an ongoing basis with our wardens, who then disseminate the information to registered American citizens. Whenever we conduct outreach, we also promote absentee voting. As people register with us in-country, we ask if they would be interested in registering to vote as well. Our biggest hurdle is submission of registration and ballots for American citizens who do not live near Panama City.

**Bogota, Colombia** - To encourage voting, Bogotá ordered and put up posters in the ACS waiting area as well as in other parts of the Embassy for the Embassy community. In May 2006, we met with the leader of the local Democrats Abroad organization to exchange ideas. It's a very small organization, and he did not ask to participate with us in any other activities. (There is no Republicans Abroad organization in Colombia.)

There were few inquiries from the public about voting. For those who did inquire, we gave them copies of the VAG or forwarded the link to the FVAP website, as appropriate.

**Munich, Germany** – We inserted a 4” x 6” absentee voting flyer in every passport renewal from May through September 2006.

**Buenos Aires, Argentina** - In Buenos Aires, we make sure our supplies, including VAGs, are well-stocked and send warden messages to the American citizen community throughout Argentina.

**Moscow, Russia** - Embassy Moscow ACS officers spoke at a luncheon of the Moscow American Women's Organization, distributing absentee balloting materials and answering questions about overseas voting.

**Zagreb, Croatia** - In the 2006 election cycle, Zagreb's voting assistant and officer regularly sent all voting information to all our wardens, the official American community of the US Mission in Croatia, as well as American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), American School, and American-Croatian Society in Zagreb. Voting information and posters were exhibited during town hall meetings outside of the capital, in three regional cities where majority of our American citizens are located (Opatija, Zadar and Dubrovnik). We also faxed and mailed necessary voting information to those without the Internet access.

**Naples, Italy** – Consular section Naples started a Voting folder in both paper and electronic versions. In May 2006 we collaborated with DoD's SIA office to host a one-day VAO conference; we invited our Wardens as well as VAOs from other posts. We have ordered plenty of voting forms and guides and display Voting posters in the ACS waiting area. We distributed pre-cleared Voting messages through our warden e-mail system. Our staff members regularly ask passport applicants who appear at our window and who are residents of Italy if they'd like to register to vote.

**Merida, Mexico** – We are a small consular section, and although we have a good number of American living in the district, we have seen a low demand. We make sure we have all needed materials on hand and send out quarterly updates about voting information on the warden system.

**Beirut, Lebanon** – Post keeps all voting materials sufficiently stocked and publicizes voting information on the Embassy's website. We regularly disseminate warden messages about voting, mail registration forms and ballots on behalf of voters, and distribute voting materials to American institutions in Lebanon.

**Caracas, Venezuela** – Embassy Caracas delivered posters to the international schools here and provide voting cards and an information sheet to wardens to assist them in handling any inquiries.

**Riga, Latvia** – Embassy Riga has 3 best practices to share. We (1) put a link to voting information on the home page of the embassy web page; (2) regularly advertise about absentee voting in post's embassy newsletter; and (3) set up a "voting information booth" at the embassy's annual 4th of July picnic to hand out voting information and absentee ballot registration cards.

**Bucharest, Romania** - We have held "Consul Day" at the American School at least twice a year for the past couple of years. Voting materials are displayed prominently for distribution during those events. Also, the Embassy has established "American Corners"

in numerous locations throughout Romania. We are in the process of putting a binder of information for American citizens at each of these corners and these include voting information.

**Sao Paulo, Brazil** - We sent out warden messages and with the public diplomacy section, held an interview session with the local Republican and Democratic Party representatives.

**Luxembourg** – Consular employees staffed a booth at the American Women’s Club first brunch meeting last September, responding to questions about voting and assisting in completing registration forms. We reminded Americans at other events (AMCHAM lunches, 4th of July picnic) of procedures for registration and ballot submission, and we supplied the Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad with copies of the Voting Assistance Guide and forms. On 2 weekdays not normally designated for ACS services, we opened the office specifically for submission of absentee ballots, which we sent via APO if there was still time. For 2008, we are exploring options for fee-reduction or fee-waiver programs through courier services.

**Nassau, Bahamas** - Nassau ordered voting materials, forms, posters and banners in a timely manner and stocked sufficient FPCAs and FWABs.

**Conakry, Guinea** - Conakry received a couple of posters and a dozen Voting Assistance Guides; some of which we distributed. We also created a website where voting information is also posted along with other consular information for the public.

**Sydney, Australia** - During the last election, thousands of overseas voters in our Consular District (Sydney) who did not have Internet access either phoned or came to the Consulate for information. We maintained a supply of copies of the state-by-state instructions for the states about which we received the most inquiries, kept them by the counter, and gave them out when necessary. We sent warden messages, had a link to FVAP on our website, displayed voting posters in our waiting room, and included voting information in monthly newsletters to Americans. Our post conducted a voter workshop as well.

**Melbourne, Australia** - Melbourne got the message across and assisted our American citizen community through sending warden messages, posting voting information and a link to FVAP on the Embassy website, and displaying voting posters in the public area of the consular section. We created a “how to” flyer on various steps of the voting process and passed them out from the ACS window. We also maintained an easily accessible paper file in the waiting room with FVAP news for various states, engaged in regular

email correspondence with Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad, mailed registration and ballot forms at consular section expense, and provided guidance on all voting issues including how to use courier services for sending voting materials.

**Mbabane, Swaziland** - At Community Hall meetings with American citizens, we disseminate information on voter registration and distribute FWABs and FPCAs, which we maintain supplies of at all times. We also make sure that voting information is available to Americans coming for Consular Services at post.

**Skopje, Macedonia** - Embassy Skopje sends warden messages to the registered American citizens; makes sure that posters with voting schedule are displayed in our waiting room; includes voting information in our quarterly newsletters to our American citizens; and publicly displays all the voting information in the ACS waiting room.

**Vilnius, Lithuania** - In addition to running articles on voting in our newsletter three times per year, we discuss voting at our town hall meetings and have VAGs on our information/forms table. We have posters in the waiting room, periodically send out warden messages on voting topics, have basic voting information on our web site, and provide information on services the Consular Section provides at every opportunity, including notarization and assisting with mailing-in ballots.

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** - Addis Ababa maintains a Voter's Information Guide book and registration forms. We distributed the Voters information guide, the registration forms and the voting posters to the USAID offices, the International Community School, and the American Community Library to make it easier for the American community to receive voting information and assistance. We also maintain a voting file for quick reference.

**Dushanbe, Tajikistan** - Dushanbe posted voting information on our website; forwarded voting news releases and warden messages on voting to registered Americans; displayed FPCAs and a *Voting Assistance Guide* in our consular waiting room; created a paper file and continuity folder with information on the voting process and procedures and the latest voting news information; provided faxing voting assistance to American citizens and pouched FPCAs to local election officials when time was permitting it.

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** - Kuala Lumpur sent out warden messages, letting people know that FedEx was offering to send in voter cards free of charge for a limited period.

**Kyiv, Ukraine** - In Kyiv, we constantly update our voting network on absentee voting practices and news through the Embassy website, warden messages, newsletters for registered Americans, and internal Embassy newsletter. We hand-delivered voting guides, instruction sheets on how to vote overseas, posters, voting calendars, and voting forms to the different office buildings of the Embassy as well as USAID and Peace Corps. The ACS package that the consular officer uses on outreach trips always contains the voting instruction and materials. We hosted a voting workshop and set up a voting booth at the July 4th event by American Chamber of Commerce. The VAO emphasized the importance of absentee voting while making a presentation on general ACS services to the American staff working at the local international schools. With AMCHAM, we arranged a free DHL delivery for returning ballots when the deadline for the federal voting drew near.

**Praia, Cape Verde** - We had a voting poster up in the consular waiting room and conducted a consular outreach program about voting on several of the islands that make up the archipelago of Cape Verde. The presentation included state-specific information for Florida, California, and several New England states, which are where almost all Cape Verdean-Americans live. We also sent ballots back to the U.S. through the diplomatic pouch.

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia** - Phnom Penh has voting posters prominently displayed in the consular waiting room.

**Nicosia, Cyprus** - Our post has used the Wardens E-Mail Network and Embassy's internal (electronic and hardcopy forms) newsletter to disseminate voting guides. We also prepared handouts with voting information for American citizens coming to the section. Free DHL delivery for returning ballots has been a standard procedure for U.S. elections that took place the last 8 years. We updated our website to link voters directly to FVAP's site.

**Ottawa, Canada** - In addition to the info we put on our websites and in the emailed newsletter we send to registered American citizens, Ottawa set up a dedicated phone line during both the '04 and '06 elections with detailed information on registration. This allowed people with more complicated questions to leave a message and get a response very quickly. The voting information and number of the dedicated line was at the top of Ottawa's phone tree, which meant people didn't have to wade through the whole phone tree to get to voting information and assistance.

**Harare, Zimbabwe** - The biggest draw card to Harare's voting program was having the Consul host a Town Hall meeting at the Ambassador's residence, regional Town Hall meetings at local hotels in the main cities, and a voters' drive at the Marine house. We

maintain a standard operating procedure (SOP) in the office for the voting program so that in the event the VAO is out of the office, any of the consular staff can answer questions. We maintain a "Voter's Packet" to distribute to American citizens; it contains a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, a copy of the On-Line Version of the Federal Write - In Absentee Ballot, a sample of an actual ballot, a list of the Primary and Election Deadlines for Overseas Citizens, a list of the General Election Deadlines for Overseas Citizens, and a copy of the Requirements for Voting and Establishing Voting Residence.

**Bujumbura, Burundi** - Bujumbura has a fairly small American citizen community. For the 2006 election, we posted voting posters in the consular waiting area and handed out FPCA cards at Town Hall meetings. Post also assisted voters by facilitating mailing of the FPCA and FWAB cards. We keep a Voting folder on hand with copies of all emails and Voting Newsletters.

**Sofia, Bulgaria** - In addition to sending at least 2-3 warden messages a year, the ACS section sets up a "Get out and Vote" booth at the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Embassy hosted party. Experience has shown that at least 2/3 of American citizens in Bulgaria have access to the Internet, where they have good experiences and adequate access to info via the [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) website. Voters Assistance Guides are ordered and sent to the organizations, such as universities, with the highest concentration of American citizens.

**Krakow, Poland** - Through word-of-mouth, we reached out to Krakow's substantial population of young Americans of voting age to inform them of the Consulate's role in the FVAP. Because of this, young voters under 30 constituted the largest group of voters voting with the Consulate's assistance.

**Helsinki, Finland** - We have revised our handout which we insert into each passport we issue so that it now includes a portion on voting information. Post has information on its website about how to vote. During the consular officer's outreach trips, voting is mentioned.

**Monterrey, Mexico** - Monterrey sent out several warden messages, put out posters in our ACS waiting room, and gave every person applying for a passport or Consular Report of Birth Abroad an information sheet on absentee voting.

**Cape Town, South Africa** - During the 2006 federal election cycle, the Cape Town Consular Section sent warden messages to resident American citizens, advising them of coming elections and of Post's voting resources. In addition, the Consular Section hosted and provided support for a public Voting Assistance Workshop, conducted by visiting officers of the Federal Voting Assistance Program for resident American citizens.



**Dakar, Senegal** - Dakar posted voting posters in the Consular waiting room; assisted American citizens with mailing their completed FWABs to the U.S.; answered voting questions via email and telephone; included voting information in our monthly Consular newsletter to American citizens; forwarded warden messages about 2006 Election Notice to American citizens via Biglist, our emailing list; had voting information link on our Embassy website.

**Montevideo, Uruguay** – In 2006, we invited the American Women's Club, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S.-Uruguay Alianza, and Uruguay-American School to be Assistant Voting Officers and were pleased with how successful this teamwork approach proved to be. We also kept American citizens informed through the warden system and issued FVAP materials, and put up posters in Consular waiting room, on the bulletin board outside Embassy, and at the U.S.-Uruguay Alianza.

**Durban, South Africa** – We have updated our voting network and information on absentee voting practices, and news is regularly channeled through telephone and our newsletter to registered Americans. We hand-deliver voting leaflets at the counter and include these in envelopes with newly issued passports. Posters are displayed in the lobby, along with a voting calendar and a supply of registration forms. We are in the process of setting up a voting booth at the “American Corner” based at the library of the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg (about 45min drive from Durban). Town hall meetings are in the planning stages. Supplies of voting materials are stock.

**Lima, Peru** - Embassy Lima made registered Americans aware of upcoming deadlines by sending out regular and frequent messages through the warden system and by circulating internal reminders to the Embassy staff. We initiated a rapid check to ascertain our stocks of voting guides and promotional materials and spread these to the annex buildings. Additionally, we updated our website as appropriate to make sure we had the most up to date information.

**Tokyo, Japan** – In Tokyo, officers attended meetings targeted at expatriate life in Japan and distributed FPCAs to Americans. We have had a table with voting materials available at the 4th of July Open House/Festival. We covered election issues several months in a row in post's ACS newsletter and distributed information to each adult American coming into ACS for services. For overseas voters who either phoned or came to the Consulate for information, we handed out/faxed a two page flyer with FVAP website and FVAP toll-free contact/fax information along with their particular state instructions. During the 2006 election cycle, we also handed out the flyer and state instructions to customers who came for other services, such as passport or notary services

**Port Moseby, Papua New Guinea** –We also post messages from FVAP and the Department’s Voting Action Office on the Embassy websites for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu so the American citizens can read it at their leisure. We used to send it to them by e-mail, but it jammed up too many mailboxes in the bush which run off satellite phone only. Every time we conduct consular outreach trips, we have federal voting post cards with us to give the Americans. As well, we send stocks of them to the larger missionary groups in our three countries.

**Kolkata, India** - We ordered and have obtained the new FPCAs and FWABs and expect the stocks will be enough for us.

**Banjul, The Gambia** - Our main group of voters is Peace Corps volunteers, so we work with Peace Corps to advertise voting information and registration dates in their newsletters.

**London, England (United Kingdom)** - In cooperation with Democrats and Republicans Abroad, we hosted a Voter Registration Drive, open to the American public, at The Benjamin Franklin House in central London, home to the founding father from 1757 to 1775. We talked about overseas voting at, and included voter registration materials (FPCAs, FWABs, instructions for each state) in the packages taken to, nearly thirty public speaking outreach events, including at schools, school fairs, trade fairs, American club events, and an American leaders town hall meeting. We included articles on absentee voting and voting deadlines in 10 of our 12 monthly email American newsletters, which were then posted on the Embassy website. We answered a question on voter registration during our inaugural “Talk to the Consul” Webchat, the transcript of which was then posted on the Embassy website. We provided FPCAs, FWABs, and state instructions to over a thousand inquirers, many of whom used our website email service to request voting information. We maintain close contact with local U.S. party representatives, military bases and organizations with VAOs (like FAWCO) to ensure the voting public had the latest information and forms.

**St. Petersburg, Russia** – We order voting materials, forms, posters and banners in a timely manner and stock sufficient FPCAs and FWABs. We print out Voting Newsletters, which we get via email and post it in ACS public area. We send out voting related warden messages as needed to American citizens registered in our Consular district and post the warden messages on our website

**Paramaribo, Suriname** - We are small, with fewer than 400 resident American citizens, so a little goes a long way. Paramaribo conducted voting outreach with American Citizens resident in Suriname by sending email communication to all registered

Americans about how and where to register; having open walk-in hours for American Citizens for assistance in completing the FVAP; faxing and sending by diplomatic pouch FVAP for registered voters; holding a voter's registration drive with the Peace Corps Volunteers who returned to the capital for in-service training; delivering information and forms to the local American school and assisting the teachers in completing and sending the forms; having voter's information on the embassy website with current links and information; communicating directly with the large mining companies, which are the major employers of American citizens in Suriname, but are mostly outside of the capital city.

**Bangkok, Thailand** – The Voting Assistance Program at the U.S. Embassy- Bangkok informed their American public of Voting news and information in seven different ways. First, the VAO was added to the FVAP Headquarters mailing list, and sent out e-mails to all the other Voting Officers and Assistants throughout Thailand, keeping them informed on important issues regarding voting and any changes to the Elections and other voting events.

Second, throughout the year, the VAO sent out "Voting News and information bulletins" to the Embassy employees and their families by utilizing the Embassy's newsletter to inform them of their voting rights and how to make their vote count.

Third, the VAO posted news and information on the Embassy's public website and on Consular Information Kiosk in the consular section's waiting room. She also created an "Absentee Voting" web-page for Bangkok's public website. This web-page assists the Americans in Thailand with their voting needs and helps them to register to vote without coming to the Embassy. One of the perks of this website was the ability to download all the necessary forms and instructions. All the links on the web-page directly connect to the FVAP website to ensure the right information is given and to ensure all information is non-partisan. The on-site kiosk provided Americans without access to a personal computer to download and print out any relevant materials they needed in order to vote.

Fourth, the VAO attended the 4th of July Picnic that was open to the American Public and assisted VAOs from other organizations in getting Americans to register to vote and to request their absentee ballots. This was also a great opportunity to inform the American public of the Embassy's role in the Voting Assistance Program.

Fifth, the Embassy sent out regular emails about voting and the election to Americans registered with the Embassy through the Internet Based Registration System (IBRS) and with a 3rd party email list server managed by the ACS Unit. These emails reminded the public of important voting dates, registration procedures, how to request Absentee Ballots, etc, and provided them with links to websites that would assist them with their voting needs.

Sixth, the VAO was a featured guest speaker at the Embassy's 2006 Warden Conference, on 29 September 2006. She discussed three main points during her allotted time: The

Voting Assistance Guide, the Federal Post Card Application, and the Voting Absentee Web-page on the Embassy's public website. This was a great opportunity to remind the Wardens (more than two dozen from all over Thailand attended the conference) and other Embassy staff of the Federal Voting Assistance Program and their voting rights.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the VAO created a Voting Assistance Officer/Assistant Continuity Binder. This binder includes, but is not limited to, correspondence with the FVAP regarding voting issues dealing with Thailand and points of contact for various Voting Officers from other agencies. The binder also includes FVAP Regulations and FAM voting guidance, Voting Assistance Guide Changes and Corrections, Headquarter and Post News Releases, and fax receipts for FPCA or Ballots that were transmitted by post, in case of problems later on. This guide will ensure the Embassy will be able to continue to provide a high level of voting assistance long after the VAO departs post.

Embassy Bangkok's plans for the next voting cycle:

The 2006 election was a huge success in terms of finding creative ways to get voting news and information out to the overall American Community. One major lesson learned was the importance of getting the news releases from Headquarters out to all the other voting officers and assistants in Thailand. This helped keep all voting officers and assistants informed on a regular basis of the issues and changes in the Election year. This made it easier for the other voting officers to assist Americans in their area, knowing all of the changes that were made.

A second major lesson learned was realizing the importance of utilizing technology to get information to the public. Creating a web-page on the public website was crucial because a lot of Americans live outside of Bangkok, or far from the Embassy, making a trip to the Embassy to get voting information a huge ordeal. Having the web-page at their fingertips made it easier and less time-consuming, allowing them to download all the forms they needed from home. The information Kiosk in the waiting room helped with questions at the ACS customer service windows, freeing ACS staff of the burden of answering routine questions and/or printing off forms. We can now refer them first to the Information Kiosk to get their state-by-state instructions and download all the relevant instructions, before they seek further guidance from our staff.

This year, we utilized two new resources to assist in shipping ballots to the states. However, we found out about these resources late in the election year, so we were unable to get the word out in advance to the public. Fed-Ex provided free delivery of ballots for the last 2-3 weeks before the elections. This helped immensely with the shipment of ballots to the U.S. Especially for the people who do not live near the Embassy. Also the Military APO assisted in getting ballots back to the U.S. by sending them express with no extra charge. Knowing these resources are available during election time, is great, and hopefully in 2008 we can utilize these resources again, and inform the public in advance of these options that are available to them to assist in getting their vote counted.

As for a few goals that we have for the next year, we are going to utilize the walk-in-service window to handout leaflets to all applicants. Also, we would like to focus again on just registering to vote during 2007. We will provide more announcements through the Embassy newsletter, as well as public announcements to American communities located far in the field. We will also try to get voting information out at the New Comer's Luncheon that is held once a year at the Ambassador's Residence, as a new way of informing employees and their families of their right to vote absentee.